

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



June 12, 2000

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 00-15

To: County Refugee Coordinators

Enclosed are spreadsheets showing each eligible county's proposed allocations for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2000 Refugee Employment Social Services (RESS) and RESS Set-Aside Programs. Release of these allocations was delayed due to difficulties in securing accurate Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination Systems (MEDS) data for Los Angeles County. The county is in the process of attempting to rectify discrepancies in its MEDS data. However, to avoid further delay, for Los Angeles County only, an estimate has been used in place of MEDS data to determine the proposed allocations. For all other counties, current MEDS data has been used.

Please note that all final allocations will be based on the most current MEDS data available at the time the Final Notice of Allocations to States of FY 2000 Funds for Refugee Social Services is published in the Federal Register. Because of the delay in release of allocations, the deadline for submittal of County Refugee Services Plans has been extended from June 30, 2000 to July 31, 2000.

Counties eligible to receive RESS funds for FFY 2000 are those which have received a minimum of 700 refugee arrivals over the five-year period from FFY 1995 through FFY 1999. (See Enclosed Arrivals Summary.) Although San Joaquin County's five-year arrivals total falls slightly below the threshold, it continues to be included as an eligible county because it is within a reasonable margin of the threshold. Both Merced and Contra Costa Counties were phased-out of the RESS Program with their FFY 1999 allocations. San Bernardino County, which received a total of 1,087 arrivals during the five-year period, has previously declined to participate in the program.

The regular RESS funds, less the allowance for state administration, have been allocated to counties according to the standard formula. This formula is based on each eligible county's total of adult refugees who are receiving cash aid and who have been in the U. S. less than 60 months as a percentage of the total of such refugees in all eligible counties. With the exception of Los Angeles County for which an estimate of its population of adult refugees receiving cash assistance who have been in the United States less than 60 months has been used, data was obtained from the most recent MEDS File CalWORKs/RCA-ECA Group Totals < 60 Months Report, dated May 26, 2000.

As in FFY 99, \$405,582 of the state's Set-Aside allocation will be transferred to the California Department of Health Services' (CDHS) Refugee Health Program (RHP). This amount, which represents approximately twenty-three percent (23%) of the total, will be allocated by CDHS to county RHPs to augment medical interpreter training, Children's Health Insurance Program (known in California as the Healthy Families Program) outreach efforts and to improve refugee access to medical services. The remaining Set-Aside funds, less the allowance for state administration, have been allocated to eligible counties according to a formula which takes into account that these funds may be used to provide outreach/referral and interpreter services to all refugees regardless of their length of residency in the U.S., and that many of the programs to which refugees are to be referred are those specifically oriented toward children and families (e.g., Healthy Families, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Head Start, child care, etc.). The allocation methodology was based, therefore, on the total number of refugees, adults and children, on aid in each eligible county (without regard to time in the U.S.) as a percentage of the total number in all eligible counties. Data for all counties was obtained from the MEDS File CalWORKs/RCA-ECA Group Totals Report, dated May 26, 2000. Counties are reminded that they are required to include in their County Plans a description of how RESS Set-Aside funds will be used. This description should include measurable goals and outcomes (e.g., number of refugees to whom outreach services were provided, number of interpreters trained/hired, etc.) for the funds.

With the recent promulgation of the Final Rule for the Refugee Resettlement Program, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has provided for an extended service period for RESS funds. Section 400.210 of the revised regulations requires the state to expend funds within two years of the FFY in which they were awarded and allows for an additional 90-day period for final financial reports to be submitted. Previously, the 90-day period was inclusive of the two year grant award period. This change allows the state and counties to extend the RESS service periods from 21 months up to 24 months. The grant award periods and service periods are noted on the enclosed allocation spreadsheets.

As always, counties are cautioned to use the proposed allocations for planning purposes only. Final allocations are subject to federal funds availability and may be less than amounts indicated in the Proposed Notice of Allocations to States of FY 2000 Funds for Refugee Social Services. In addition, final allocations will be based on the most recent MEDS data available at the time the Final Notice is published by ORR. Because MEDS data fluctuates, final county allocations may be significantly different than proposed allocations. Finally, the RPB has been informed by the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration that it anticipates that a significant number of Iranian refugees, in excess of 1,000, will be resettled in

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Los Angeles County over the next several months. These and other new arrivals will likely have some impact on the MEDS data and, in turn, will affect the final allocations.

If you have questions on the allocation spreadsheets, please telephone Phyllis Iwasaki, Manager of the Refugee Technical Services Bureau, at (916) 654-2387 or Brad Elftmann of her staff at (916) 654-7250.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Robert A. Barton, Chief
Refugee Programs Branch

Enclosures

**PROPOSED STANDARD REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL SERVICES ALLOCATIONS
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2000**

\$ 7,925,949

County	Adults on Aid < 60 Mos.¹	Adults on Aid < 60 Mos. Percentage	FFY 2000 County Allocations (based on Adults on Aid < 60 Mos.)	Total County Administrative Costs @ 15% Maximum	Remainder for Services
Alameda	502	5.15%	\$ 346,958	\$ 52,044	\$ 294,914
Fresno	260	2.67%	\$ 179,879	\$ 26,982	\$ 152,897
Los Angeles ¹	3,083	31.62%	\$ 2,130,257	\$ 319,539	\$ 1,810,718
Orange	1,029	10.55%	\$ 710,760	\$ 106,614	\$ 604,146
Sacramento	2,650	27.18%	\$ 1,831,132	\$ 274,670	\$ 1,556,462
San Diego	872	8.94%	\$ 602,293	\$ 90,344	\$ 511,949
San Francisco	280	2.87%	\$ 193,354	\$ 29,003	\$ 164,351
San Joaquin	69	0.71%	\$ 47,833	\$ 7,175	\$ 40,658
Santa Clara	756	7.75%	\$ 522,122	\$ 78,318	\$ 443,804
Yolo	250	2.56%	\$ 172,469	\$ 25,870	\$ 146,599
Totals	9,751	100.00%	\$ 6,737,057	\$ 1,010,559	\$ 5,726,498

County Allocations (Admin. & Services)	\$ 6,737,057
State Admin. (@ 15% of Total California Allocation)	\$ 1,188,892
Total California RESS Allocation	\$ 7,925,949

Notes:

- ¹ With the exception of Los Angeles County, data obtained from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File CalWORKs/RCA-ECA Group Totals Report, dated May 26, 2000. Los Angeles County data is estimated.
- Final FFY 2000 allocations are subject to federal funds availability and may be less than the amounts shown here.
 - Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.: 93.566
 - Grant Award Period: 10/1/00 - 9/30/02
 - Service Period: 10/1/00 - 9/30/02

**PROPOSED REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL SERVICES
SET-ASIDE ALLOCATIONS
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2000**

Total California RESS Set-Aside Award \$ 1,710,058
RESS Set-Aside funds to be transferred to DHS \$ 405,582
State Administration Cost Allowance on RESS Set-Aside Award @ 15% \$ 195,671
RESS Set-Aside Award Amount to be allocated to Counties \$ 1,108,805

County	Refugee Adults and Children on Aid (RCA & CalWORKs)¹	Percentage of Refugee Adults & Children on Aid	RESS Set-Aside County Allocations	County Administrative Cost Allowance on RESS Set-Aside Allocation (@ 15% Maximum)	Remainder for Services
Alameda	9,864	9.93%	\$ 110,104	\$ 16,516	\$ 93,588
Fresno	17,006	17.11%	\$ 189,717	\$ 28,458	\$ 161,259
Los Angeles	16,429	16.53%	\$ 183,284	\$ 27,493	\$ 155,791
Orange	11,567	11.64%	\$ 129,065	\$ 19,360	\$ 109,705
Sacramento	22,620	22.76%	\$ 252,364	\$ 37,855	\$ 214,509
San Diego	8,791	8.85%	\$ 98,129	\$ 14,719	\$ 83,410
San Francisco	2,257	2.27%	\$ 25,170	\$ 3,776	\$ 21,394
San Joaquin	3,733	3.76%	\$ 41,691	\$ 6,254	\$ 35,437
Santa Clara	5,838	5.87%	\$ 65,087	\$ 9,763	\$ 55,324
Yolo	1,276	1.28%	\$ 14,193	\$ 2,129	\$ 12,064
Totals	99,381	100.00%	\$ 1,108,804	\$ 166,323	\$ 942,481

Notes:

- ¹ Data from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File CalWORKs/RCA-ECA Group Totals Report, dated May 26, 2000
- Set-aside funds may be used for the following purposes:
 - 1) Outreach and referral to ensure that eligible refugees access the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other programs for low income working populations; and
 - 2) Special interpreter training and the hiring of interpreters to enable refugees to have equal access to medical and certain legal services.
 - Final FFY 2000 allocations are subject to federal funds availability and may be less than the amounts shown here.
 - Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.: 93.566
 - Grant Award Period: 10/1/00 - 9/30/02
 - Service Period: 10/1/00 - 9/30/02